

the conflicts of interest that tainted their work by taking steps to keep financial firms from shopping for high ratings.

Dodd-Frank tackled abusive mortgage lending in many ways. We banned the “liar loans” that WaMu and others issued so recklessly to borrowers who provided little or no documentation of their ability to pay. We required banks to keep some of the mortgage-backed securities they issue on their books rather than making bad loans and selling 100 percent of them and the risk they carried. We prohibited banks from paying their employees more when they persuade home buyers to take out high-risk loans. We established a consumer protection agency with authority to police abusive lending.

Throughout the debate, I focused in particular on an issue I see as the connecting thread that ran through our hearings and our report: rampant, unchecked conflict of interest. The subcommittee’s work showed how time and again, institutions within the financial and regulatory system chose their own short-term interests over the interests of their clients.

We found a particularly vivid example in a \$2 billion deal called Hudson Mezzanine issued by Goldman Sachs. Hudson was a collateralized debt obligation—that’s a security that references or is backed by a pool of loans and other assets, in this case mortgage loans. In marketing Hudson to its clients, Goldman told clients that its interests were “aligned” with the buyers of the CDO, and that the CDO’s assets had been “sourced from the Street,” in other words outside of Goldman. In fact, most of the assets backing Hudson were from Goldman’s own inventory, assets the bank knew were risky and wanted to unload. And far from being “aligned” with its clients, Goldman’s position was opposed to its own clients, because it held the entire short side of the CDO, making a \$2 billion bet that Hudson would plunge in value. When it did, Goldman effectively took \$2 billion out of its clients’ pockets and made a handsome profit. And in injecting those junk securities into the financial system did real damage to that system.

The question of accountability is important here. I have said before, it is up to the appropriate authorities, and not to us in the Senate, to decide whether those responsible for transactions such as Hudson should be punished. But what I can say is I think it is vitally important that those authorities address and resolve that question. That is why our subcommittee forwarded our report to law enforcement authorities. They have the job of providing the Nation with the accountability that so far has been lacking.

The congressional role is legislative. The amendment that Senator MERKLEY and I offered on the Senate floor, known as Merkley-Levin, codified the so-called Volcker rule, former Fed Chairman Paul Volcker’s recommendation that we rein in proprietary trad-

ing by banks. Firms such as Lehman Brothers and Bear Stearns collapsed in part because their pursuit of short-term profit led them to risky trades that blew up in their faces. Merkley-Levin says that if you are a commercial bank protected by taxpayer-funded Federal deposit insurance, you can’t engage in high-risk proprietary trading. Even if you are not a traditional bank, but because of your size, your collapse would damage the stability of the U.S. financial system. You are now required to adhere to certain capital requirements and other limitations.

Merkley-Levin also breaks new ground in the area of conflict of interest. It explicitly bans the kinds of conflict of interest we saw so vividly in Goldman’s Hudson transaction. It prohibits firms from assembling an asset-backed security and selling it to clients while betting against that same security, acting not as a market-maker, but as an investor for its own profit. You are either for your client or you are for yourself.

We had to fight hard for Merkley-Levin’s passage. When the Senate passed its version of Dodd-Frank, Republicans engaged in complicated maneuvers on the floor to block the Senate from even considering our amendment. But we succeeded in getting it included in the bill produced by the House-Senate conference committee, and despite intense lobbying by banks against Merkley-Levin, it is now law.

But the battle is far from over. Since passage, regulatory agencies have been working to turn the provisions of Dodd-Frank into detailed regulations and have been subjected to the same barrage of bank lobbying that accompanied our debate in Congress. Banks have spent more than \$50 million so far this year lobbying to weaken Dodd-Frank.

Consumers and the American economy won an important victory one year ago today. But that victory will not be secure until Dodd-Frank has teeth—tough rules backed by conscientious enforcement. Some are pulling every trick in the book to slow these regulations and weaken their impact. But the success we had in passing Dodd-Frank shows that the powerful interests don’t always win.

Supporters of reform made their voices heard a year ago, and today, they are working to ensure that Dodd-Frank is implemented forcefully. They are telling regulators—many of whom once subscribed to the notion that banks know best—that the American people will not allow a return to policies that so recently did so much harm. Just like we need a cop on the street to enforce the traffic laws, we need a cop on the beat on Wall Street. Anything less threatens a repeat of disaster.

Anything less will also damage confidence in our financial system, and we will not have a market that holds the confidence of investors and potential investors. That should be everybody’s goal. The free market is incredibly im-

portant. We all depend on it for economic growth. But that market must be honest. That is in the interest of everyone. Whether you have invested in the market or thinking about investing in the market, that is in the interest of the American people. We are not talking about weakening the market—we are talking about strengthening it. And that is just what the Dodd-Frank Act can accomplish, if we implement it as Congress intended.

TRIBUTE TO HOSPITAL CORPSMAN SECOND CLASS JACOB EMMOTT

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an exceptional U.S. Sailor, HM2 Jacob Emmott, known as “Doc Emmott” to the marines with whom he serves. “Doc” was awarded the Silver Star medal on July 14, 2011, for his extraordinary bravery and service.

Petty Officer Emmott, a resident of Wakefield, RI, served as a platoon corpsman with Company C, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. On April 20, 2010, Petty Officer Emmott was on patrol with his fellow marines when they began receiving heavy fire from multiple enemy positions. One of the marines sustained multiple gunshot wounds and, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, Petty Officer Emmott rushed through enemy fire to aid the fallen marine. While tending to yet another fallen comrade, Petty Officer Emmott sustained a gunshot wound directly to his face, rendering him unconscious. After Petty Officer Emmott regained consciousness, he refused morphine in order to supervise the care of the other wounded marines. His courage and dedication to duty rallied the spirits of his squad mates as they were evacuated from the battlefield.

The Silver Star Medal is the third-highest military decoration that can be awarded to a member of the U.S. Armed Forces for valor while engaged in an action against an enemy. Petty Officer Emmott is clearly deserving of the Silver Star medal for his actions to aid his fellow marines at his own personal risk.

I join all Rhode Islanders in expressing deep appreciation and gratitude for Petty Officer Emmott’s extraordinary commitment and service to our Nation. We also thank his family for their support and sacrifice. Congratulations and best wishes.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I rise today to commend Navy HM2 Jake Emmott of Wakefield, Rhode Island for his exceptional service to our country, which earned him one of our Nation’s highest military awards for gallantry during combat. Last week, I had the honor of joining Jake and his family as he was presented with the Silver Star Medal for heroic acts that went above and beyond the call of duty.

On April 20, 2010, Mr. Emmott was serving as platoon corpsman with Company C, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines in

Helmand Province, Afghanistan. That day, Mr. Emmott's squad was on combat patrol when it came under intense enemy fire. Upon seeing a marine in his squad fall from multiple gunshot wounds, he rushed through the fire-fight to provide first aid.

Mr. Emmott and other squad members proceeded to transport the injured marine to the casualty collection point, when a second marine was shot in the thigh. Mr. Emmott ignored the chaos around him and worked calmly to aid the second casualty. After stabilizing the second marine, Mr. Emmott was struck directly in the face by a bullet, which pierced his sinus cavity and just narrowly missed his carotid artery. The blow knocked him unconscious. His squad leader, who saw him get shot, thought he was dead.

When Mr. Emmott regained consciousness, he refused morphine in order to supervise the treatment of the injured marines. Despite difficulty speaking and choking on his own blood, he provided precise instructions to another combat lifesaver on how to administer aid to the injured. Then, despite excruciating pain, he managed to stagger to the medical evacuation helicopter, so that the other injured marines could be carried on stretchers.

Today I would like to offer my humble thanks to Mr. Emmott for his selfless service, leadership, and courage. We all admire his strength and willingness to put others before himself, especially as he faced his own life threatening injuries. He is truly an inspiration and role model for all Americans. At the young age of 22, he has already accomplished feats of excellence that few could do in a lifetime. I commend Mr. Emmott for his unwavering commitment to his comrades and to his country.

STENNIS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, some 9 years ago, the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Leadership began a program for summer interns working in congressional offices. This 6-week program is designed to enhance their internship experience by giving them an inside view of how Congress really works. Each week, the interns meet with senior congressional staff and other experts to discuss issues ranging from the legislative process, to the influence of the media and lobbyists on Congress, to careers on Capitol Hill, and more.

Interns are selected for this program based on their college record, community service experience, and interest in a career in public service. This year, 25 outstanding interns, most of them juniors and seniors in college who are working for Democrats and Republicans in both the House and Senate have taken part.

I congratulate the interns for their involvement in this valuable program and I thank the Stennis Center and the senior Stennis fellows for providing

such a meaningful experience for these interns and for encouraging them to consider a future career in public service.

I ask unanimous consent that a list of 2011 Stennis congressional interns and the offices in which they work be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Matthew Becker, attending the University of Mary, interning in the office of Senator John Hoeven

William Bergstrom, attending Harvard College, interning in the office of Senator John Hoeven

Kathleen Bouzis, attending the University of Wyoming, interning in the office of Senator Mike Enzi

Tyler Brandt, attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison, interning in the Senate Special Committee on Aging

Andrew Bunker, attending Wake Forest University, interning in the Office of The Speaker

Jessica Casperson, attending the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, interning in the office of Senator Herb Kohl

Kaitlin Chandler, attending Boston University, interning in the office of Senate Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee

Andrew Clauw, attending the University of Michigan, interning in the office of Representative Hansen Clarke

Todd Garland, attending Louisville Law School, interning in the office of Representative Geoff Davis

Sarah Gokey, attending Smith College, interning in the office of Senator Kent Conrad

Emily Holman, attending Miami University, interning in the office of Representative Tammy Baldwin

Mark Kauzlarich, attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison, interning in the office of Senator Herb Kohl

Aubrey Lauersdorf, attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison, interning in the office of Representative Tammy Baldwin

Alan Ledford, attending the University of Virginia, interning in the office of Senator Orrin Hatch

Anna McCracken, attending Elon University, interning in the office of Senator Jon Tester

Nicholas Muncy, attending the U.S. Air Force Academy, interning in the office of Senator Mike Enzi

Lilly Nottingham, attending Harvard University, interning in the office of Representative Mike Coffman

Andrew Podrygula, attending Middlebury College, interning in the office of Senator Kent Conrad

Hannah Postel, attending Middlebury College, interning in the House Committee on Foreign Affairs

Emily Risch, attending Minnesota State University Moorhead, interning in the office of Senator Kent Conrad

Jeff Swartz, attending The George Washington University, interning in the House Committee on the Budget

Allison Tilt, attending Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, interning in the office of Senator Jon Tester

Kim Touch, attending Northern Virginia Community College, interning in the office of Representative Don Young

Deana Veal, attending the University of Georgia, interning in the office of Senator Saxby Chambliss

Dan Wolgamott, attending St. John's University, interning in the office of Representative Tim Walz

NASA RECOGNITION

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, earlier today, in the early morning hours before sunrise, humankind once again touched the Earth after exploring the universe. On the day when 42 years earlier, Ohio's Neil Armstrong became the first human to walk on the Moon, I rise to honor the men and women of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's, NASA, Space Shuttle Program on reaching the historic milestone of the 135th and final flight of the Space Transportation System, STS. I especially honor the men and women of NASA Glenn in Cleveland, OH, for their achievements with the Space Shuttle Program, thereby advancing the human exploration of space, driving scientific advances and technology development, and enriching the lives of all people throughout the United States and the world and inspiring our next generation of explorers.

The first firing of a hydrogen/oxygen rocket engine occurred in 1953 at the NASA Lewis Flight Propulsion Laboratory, now known as NASA Glenn Research Center. Early design work and testing of turbopumps, seals and bearings, main combustion chamber injectors, baffles, heat transfer testing, development of the electroforming process, and testing of nozzle shapes and lengths was all performed by NASA engineers in Cleveland, OH. These research and development activities led to the current design of the Space Shuttle Main Engine. Three space shuttle main engines combined delivers more than 37 million horsepower, the same amount of energy as 13 Hoover Dams.

NASA Glenn is also a leader in fuel cell research and development. Scientists performed vital research to improve the performance and efficiency of the fuel cells to generate electricity for the space shuttle. Today, that work continues as NASA Glenn is a leader in alternative energy, from fuel cells to wind turbines to batteries that are now changing the way Americans live and work.

In the 1970s and 1980s, NASA Lewis ran aerodynamic wind tunnel tests on scale models of the solid rocket boosters, orbiter and external tank, and complete scale models to gather data for the new Space Transportation System. Some of the models even had gaseous hydrogen-oxygen rockets and solid propellant booster rockets, which were fired in the wind tunnel to test their behavior during ascent. These activities helped NASA to catalogue important flight characteristics of the Space Shuttle for launch and landing.

NASA Glenn not only fostered the Shuttle program's achievements, but it also comforted its setbacks. After two unfortunate accidents—the *Challenger*, STS-51L, on January 28, 1986, and the *Columbia*, STS-107, on February 1, 2003—Glenn engineers performed many shuttle safety improvements and aided the return to flight.